

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 17 Jul 52

SUBJECT Pharmaceuticals

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF IN

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SOURCE

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1. The pharmaceutical industry in Hungary is under the direction of the Ministry of Health; this was also true of pharmacies and hospitals. The distribution and inspection of drugs was under the control of the OKI (Orszagos Koezegeszseguegyi Intezet - State Public Health Institute). Inspection of pharmaceuticals was handled in the following manner: the representative of the OKI took one package of a particular series of a drug with him from the pharmacy; he sealed another package which he left with the pharmacist; the rest was sold to the public. The product was then examined; if it was not up to standard, the responsible party was punished. The inspection was considered inefficient and subject to dangerous errors; several deaths were reported to have been caused by improper packaging or labelling of drugs. In such cases, the Ministry of Health would issue an order to stop the sale of the particular series of medicine until the packages had been checked, and the medicine was not available until the checking had been completed. Pharmaceutical products were distributed to hospitals and pharmacies through a central institution, the Gyogyszerkereskedelmi Vallalat, located in Kiraly utca in Budapest. Pharmacies and hospitals submitted their requirements to the central office which then distributed the required pharmaceuticals.
2. Pharmaceutical preparations were generally available to the public on the presentation of a prescription. The quality of drugs was generally satisfactory with a few exceptions; penicillin produced in Hungary was ineffective as compared to the US product. Streptomycin was not produced in Hungary; it was imported from the US by private letter requests. Aminothiasol was quite a common drug in Hungary. Ultraseptyl is a sulfa drug made in Hungary.

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I do not know of a germicide agent called movidin; there was a germicide, derived from a silver nitrate solution, not colloidal. It was sold in tubes of 20 pastils and could be obtained only on prescription. There were no medicines imported from the USSR, but some medicines were imported from Switzerland. Papaverine was produced by Chinoïn, the largest pharmaceutical plant in Hungary; its production was reputedly one-fifth of the world's output. Most of the papaverine produced was exported, and some, I believe, was sent to the Soviet Union. I have no information on laboratories producing vaccines and serum, nor do I know which plants produced alkaloids. Although I think there is sufficient alcohol produced in Hungary, there is a shortage because alcohol must be exported to the USSR "like everything else," but I am not sure of this. Castor beans are grown in Hungary for use in pharmaceuticals, dyes, and paints, but I do not know whether they are used for cattle feed.

3. The following are Hungarian pharmaceutical manufacturers:

- (a) Chinoïn is the largest pharmaceutical plant in Hungary; it is located in Tó utca in Ujpest. Before nationalization, it was the property of Wolff (fnü). Dr Zoltán Földi, one of the best organic chemists in Hungary, is the director of one of the research laboratories. About 50 years old, he received the Kossuth prize in 1952. He was in charge of penicillin production. (Chinoïn was the only Hungarian producer of this drug) but it was not sufficiently effective and there was talk of discontinuing its production. Chinoïn was the main Hungarian producer of anti-biotics. Other products manufactured by Chinoïn:

para-aminobenzoic acid sulfamide derivatives
 ultraseptyl
 aspirin
 novocaine
 Papaverine
 pyramethemine-dimethylamine antipirin
 benzoic acid
 atropine
 para-aminosulfamides
 vitamin C

- (b) Richter, in Kőbánya, Budapest, ranked as one of the top three in pharmaceutical production in Hungary. Among other things, it produced aspirin, sulfamide preparations, and Vitamin C.
- (c) Wander, located at Rákospalota near Ujpest, the third of the three, produced hormones, synthetic material having the effect of oestrone, and sulfamide preparations.
- (d) I know that there were some smaller laboratories which produced metacyl-methylthiouracil which is used against hyperthyroidism, but I have no further information about them.

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4. Companies in Hungary in allied fields included:
- (a) Magyar Gorgyzeraru in Budapest made bandages and other medical requisites.
 - (b) Orvosi Mueszer Gyar in Budapest produced bandage, cotton, and other non-pharmaceutical supplies.
 - (c) Der Laboratories examined medical solutions and preparations, according to information I received sometime in 1950 from [redacted]

5. I have no knowledge of pharmaceutical products kept in reserve for emergencies. I do know that first aid kits, containing bandages, cotton, splints, iodine ampules, and ammonia, were distributed in 1950 to every house, institute and factory.
6. I have never heard of the use of ultrasonics in the production of anti-virus vaccines in Hungary or the USSR. I know that Dr Tamas Tarnoczy did independent research in ultrasonics at the Central Physics Research Institute at the Eoetvoes Lorand University in Budapest.

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